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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/46/727)]

46/203. Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/187 of 21 December 1990, Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/66 of 26 July 1991, World Health Assembly resolutions WHA 41.24 of 13 May 1988, 1/ WHA 42.33 and WHA 42.34 of 19 May 1989 2/ and WHA 43.10 of 16 May 1990, 3/ decision 1991/23 of 3 May 1991 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund 4/ and other relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by organizations of the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the established leadership and coordinating role of the World Health Organization and the efforts of other organizations of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Development Programme

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1/ See World Health Organization, Forty-first World Health Assembly, Geneva, 2-13 May 1988, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA 41/1988/REC/1).

2/ Ibid., Forty-second World Health Assembly, Geneva, 8-19 May 1989, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA 42/1989/REC/1).

3/ Ibid., Forty-third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 7-17 May 1990, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA 43/1990/REC/1).

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 12 (E/1991/33), chap. IV.

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and the United Nations Children's Fund, and of Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the public and private sectors in combating the spread of AIDS,

Noting that the World Health Organization estimates that nine to eleven million men, women and children are currently infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), that a further ten to twenty million adults are expected to become infected and that five to ten million children are expected to be born with HIV infection during the 1990s, creating a cumulative total of some thirty to forty million infected persons by the year 2000, 90 per cent of whom will be in developing countries, and that by then ten to fifteen million children will be orphaned by the death of a parent or both parents as a result of AIDS,

Concerned that, although the reported number of HIV cases in some industrial countries is increasing more slowly than projected, there is still a continuous rapid increase in urban areas and that the pandemic is increasing dramatically in developing countries,

Recognizing that the response to the pandemic must be multisectoral in order to mitigate effectively the social and economic consequences of AIDS and that all sectors of society must be mobilized in support of national programmes to provide support, care, education, counselling and resources to combat AIDS,

Emphasizing the need to counter discrimination and to respect the human rights and dignity of all persons, including those affected by HIV and AIDS, their families and those with whom they live, and noting the relevant work carried out by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the results of the International Consultation on AIDS and Human Rights, organized by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat at Geneva from 26 to 28 July 1989,

Recognizing that discriminatory measures related, inter alia, to quarantine, mandatory testing and coercive and/or restrictive policies dealing with travel and freedom of movement, including transfrontier movement, more often drive the disease underground, where it is more difficult to combat, but do not stop its spread,

Stressing the need to promote safer sexual practices, including responsible sexual behaviour, and to detect and treat other sexually transmitted diseases as early as possible,

Stressing, therefore, the importance of information, education and other support particularly targeted to young people to encourage behavioural practices that enable them to remain uninfected,

Also stressing the need to prevent the spread of HIV infection by any and all means of transmission, including intravenous drug use and unsafe medical practices, occurring in both specific and general population groups,

Further stressing the need to continue to address the economic and social status of women in society in order to provide them with the means to protect themselves from infection, particularly through sexual transmission,

Noting that scientific research, including social and behavioural research, is making progress in developing improved diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive technologies and pharmaceuticals, and stressing the importance of making these technologies and pharmaceuticals available as soon as possible and at an affordable price,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization 5/ on the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS;

2. Urges Member States and, where appropriate, intergovernmental organizations:

(a) To continue to give the AIDS pandemic top priority and to speak openly about AIDS and sexual behaviour within the context of their sexual, cultural and religious norms;

(b) To continue to develop strong national AIDS programmes with priority placed, in particular, on prevention of sexual transmission through the promotion of safer sexual practices, including responsible sexual behaviour, as well as on measures to prevent transmission through intravenous drug use and unsafe medical practices;

(c) To develop services, in particular for the young, in regard to information, sex education and counselling on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases, as well as on other aspects of HIV transmission, within the context of their sexual, cultural and religious norms;

(d) To ensure a multisectoral response to the socio-economic consequences of AIDS through the mobilization of all sectors of society;

(e) To encourage the private sector, community groups and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the national response to AIDS and HIV infection by providing, inter alia, support, care, education, counselling and resources;

(f) To reinforce efforts to combat denial and complacency;

3. Urges Member States and, where appropriate, intergovernmental organizations to protect the human rights and dignity of HIV-infected persons, persons with AIDS and members of particular population groups and to avoid discriminatory action against and stigmatization of them in the provision of services and in employment and travel;

4. Calls upon the scientific community to continue to undertake the necessary research into social and behavioural aspects of HIV transmission and to develop the vaccines and pharmaceuticals that will provide effective means of prevention or therapy, and encourages it to make its findings available as soon as possible;

5. Requests the World Health Organization to explore the possibility of further strengthening the exchange of information among States Members of the United Nations both on the AIDS pandemic and on national AIDS-related policies designed to combat it;

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5/ A/46/171-E/1991/61, annex.

6. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization to intensify his efforts within the United Nations system, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the heads of the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, and all other relevant United Nations organizations:

(a) To continue to advance coordinated multisectoral implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS;

(b) To support and encourage countries in developing plans to meet the economic and social consequences of the AIDS pandemic, paying attention, in particular, to women, uninfected children with HIV-infected parents or orphaned by AIDS, and elderly people left without providers and often responsible for orphaned grandchildren, as well as to those working with persons with AIDS/HIV;

(c) To mobilize the necessary resources, both human and financial, in the health and other sectors, particularly for the developing countries, to develop and implement activities and technologies for the prevention of HIV-infection/AIDS and the care of HIV-infected persons;

(d) To ensure that, in the search for prevention, cure and palliation, the concerns, needs and experience of persons with AIDS/HIV, as well as the special needs of women and children, are addressed;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the serious socio-economic consequences of the AIDS pandemic and its negative impact on development in many developing countries, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to utilize fully the research, analytical capacity and experience of the United Nations system in the planning of multisectoral activities and the earmarking of funds for countries requesting assistance for those activities;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, to use fully the information capacity of the United Nations system to intensify public information activities with respect to HIV and AIDS;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to invite the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in close collaboration with all other appropriate bodies, organs and programmes of the United Nations system, to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the health aspects and all other dimensions of the pandemic.

79th plenary meeting
20 December 1991